

**Amendments To The Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (New) A bead release device of a tire removal machine for disengaging a bend of a tire from a rim thereof, comprising:

- a vertical wheel support surface located on a vertical base;
- a movable arm rotatable in a swivel plane perpendicular to a vertical wheel support surface, said arm having a first end pivotally engaged to the base, and a second end supporting a bead release tool in front of the vertical wheel support surface;
- a cylinder piston unit connecting the base and a central portion of said arm in the swivel plane that moves the bead release tool toward and away from the bead of the tire;

wherein said first end of the arm is engaged to the base by means of a locking and release system which slides in a curved slot fixed to the base, and said center portion of

said arm is rotatably engaged to an end of a cylinder piston of said cylinder piston unit,

and wherein said locking and release system permits said swivel plane of the arm to be adjusted around the axis of said cylinder piston and thereafter fixed.

10. (New) The bead release device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said locking and release system includes a slider which slides in said curved slot and locking means to lock the position of the slider in the curved slot.

11. (New) The bead release device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the locking and release system comprises a fork having a base through which the slide passes into the curved slot, and opposing sides which engages a pin therebetween on which the arm pivots, a movable plate element through which the slider also passes, located adjacent to the base and between opposite ends of the slider, and a cam parallel to the pin, said cam being movable against the plate element to a locking position in which the plate fixes the slider within the slot.

12. (New) The bead release device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said curved slot is provided in a U-shaped piece fixed to said base.

13. (New) The bead release device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said pneumatic cylinder-piston unit is connected to said base by a support which rotates about a first axis perpendicular to the swivel plane of the arm, and about a second axis perpendicular to said first axis so that said cylinder-piston unit axis lies within the swivel plane of the arm.